

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /081 W
-----251450Z 108998 /43

P R 251410 APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 5502
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RH
SUBJ: DAILY MAIL RECOMMENDS CAUTION ON RHODEISA
CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

BEGIN LILITED OFFICIAL USE

SUMMARY: DAILY MAIL APRIL 25 IN ANOTHER IN DEPTH NEWS ANALYSIS ARTICLE, WHICH WE BELIEVE WAS CLOSELY CO-ORDINATED WITH STATE HOUSE, SPELLS OUT RESERVATIONS ABOUT CONVENINGA CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA. TWO MOST NOTABLE ELEMENTS IN THIS PRESENTATION ARE: (1) A CLEAR STATEMENT THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS NOT REJECTED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND THAT THE FRONT WILL GO ALONG WITH TALKS; AND (2) THE LINKING OF U.S. POLICIES TOWARDS NAMIBIA WITH U.S.' APPROACH TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. (U.S. FAILURE TO OPPOSE TURNHALLE

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INDICATES POSSIBLE WILLINGNESS TO SEE A "PUPPET" REGIME INSTALLED IN ZIMBABWE.) END SUMMARY.
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PRINCIPLE ITEMS OF INTEREST PRESENTED IN THE DAILY MAIL PIECE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

---PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF THE U.S. GETTING INVOLVED IN RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS TO THE EXTENT OF CO-SPONSORING A CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, THE "FRONT HAS BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO SAY IT REJECTS AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT." RATHER, THE FRONT HAS SAID IT OBJECTS TO U.S. INVOLVEMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD INTERNATIONALIZE THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM AND LEAD TO DEMANDS THAT THE USSR BE INCLUDED AS WELL. PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS MADE ITS POSITION QUITE CLEAR. "IT WILL GO ALONG WITH THE TALKS. BUT IT HAS FAITH IN THE VICTORY ON THE BATTLEFIELD."

--- AFTER HIS TALKS WITH SMITH AND VORSTER, OWEN WAS LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT BOTH MEN SERIOUSLY SEEK A PEACEFUL RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT AND THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE MAJORITY. HOWEVER, MAJORITY RULE FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT MEANS A GOVERNMENT CHOSEN BY ONE MAN ONE VOTE. THIS IS NOT WHAT SMITH AND VORSTER HAVE IN MIND. SMITH AND BEHIND HIM VORSTER ARE INTENT ON INSTALLING A PUPPET (UZOREWA). LONDON AND WASHINGTON HAVE NOT DENIED CHARGES THAT THEY WANT TO SEE MUZOREWA PLACED IN POWER. THIS LACK OF DENIAL HAS LED THE FRONT TO BELIEVE THERE IS SOME TRUTH IN THE CHARGES. FRONT'S CONCERNS HAVE BEEN HEIGHTENED BY THE MEETING BETWEEN MUZOREWA AND SECRETARY VANCE. SMITH WILL NEVER ACCEPT TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE FRONT.

---BEHIND SMITH'S DETERMINATION TO PREVENT TRUE NATIONALIST COMING TO POWER IN ZIMBABWE LIES VORSTER. HE HAS SHOWN CLEARLY BY HIS POLICY OF PRESSING AHEAD WITH THE TURNHALLE TALKS THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF GRANTING TRUE INDEPENDENCE TO NAMIBIA. IF VORSTER IS UNWILLING TO GRANT MAJORITY RULE IN NAMIBIA, HOW CAN HE BE EXPECTED TO PRESS SMITH TO DO SO IN ZIMBABWE? AT NO POINT OVER THE LAST MONTHS DID THE U.S. PRESSURE VORSTER TO RENOUNCE TURNHALLE. "IF THE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN SILENT ON TURNHALLE, HOW CAN THEY BE EXPECTED TO OPPOSE WITH A CLEAR

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CONSCIENCE THE INTRODUCTION OF A PUPPET REGIME IN RHODESIA?" IT IS TRUE THAT WESTERN DIPLOMATIS HAVE SEEN VORSTER RECENTLY ABOUT THE NEW NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION.

---"IF VORSTER SETS UP A PUPPET REGIME WITH THE HELP OF THE WEST IN RHODESIA, THE FRONT HAS SAID IT WILL FIGHT THAT REGIME. IF THERE IS STRIFE IN RHODESIA IN THE FUTURE OVER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUPPET, VORSTER WILL HAVE HIMSELF TO BLAME AND WILL COME TO REGRET HIS ACTIONS."

LOW

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, NATIONALISTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA01116
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770143-0786
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704101/aaaafsco.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 0bf0b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2663753
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 970829
Subject: DAILY MAIL RECOMMENDS CAUTION ON RHODEISA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE BEGIN LILITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: SOPN, RH, US, WA, PFOR, SOPN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0bf0b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009